

Unit of the United States,
Philadelphia, Oct. 17. 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith the Report presented by Thomas Sidell Esq., ~~United States Attorney for the Eastern Dis-~~trict of Louisiana, on the investigation made by him into the affairs of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in consequence of the instructions given to me in your letter of the 20th of May last; and I also send such of the numerous documents accompanying this report as are not already in your hands.

You will see that the investigation ~~was conducted with great labor and im-~~partiality, and that the conclusions to which it led Mr. Sidell are presented with clearness in his report. I have now to state that a careful examination of the evidence and other documents leads me to the opinion that they fully sustain this report, at least as to its principal points, and so far as it may affect the course to be taken by Govern-ment.

While the dissensions that existed among the officers, the want of mutual respect, and cordial co-operations, and, in some instances, of energy or of competence, injured the character of the Mint, and rendered the interference of government necessary, I am yet happy in the conviction that no credible evidence has been presented to impeach the integrity or fidelity of any of them. Since the investigation, two of these officers have died at their posts, of the epidemic which has been committing its fatal ravages in New Orleans. In the heat of controversy, attacks were made on their character. I consider it, therefore, a mere act of justice to their memory, to state that my confidence in their honesty and ability has not been shaken, and that I deeply deplore their loss.

There is a part of the testimony given during the investigation, with regard to a conflict between the Assayer and the Melt-er & Refiner, upon which Mr. Sidell declines expressing an opinion, on the ground that the dispute "embraces scientific discussion and details on which he does not feel himself competent to decide, and which he therefore submits to me". On that

Subject I have accordingly prepared a
separate report, which may be consi-
dered as forming a Supplement to that
of Mr. Slidell, and which is also sent
herewith.

I remain, very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

To)

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Sec. of Treasury. }